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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
24 September 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
SUBJECT: Impending elections in Honduras

1. Date: 10 October 1954
2. Offices to be filled: Presidency, vice-presidency, and the entire unicameral National Congress of 57 members.
3. Parties participating: Nationalist, Reformist, Liberal, and Honduran Democratic Revolutionary Party.
4. Key political figures:
  - Dr. Juan Manuel Galvez - outgoing president.
  - Julio Lozano - outgoing vice-president.
  - General Tiburcio Carias - Ex-dictator (1932-49) and now Nationalist Party presidential candidate.
  - General Abraham Williams - Reformist Party presidential candidate.
  - Dr. Ramon Villeda Morales - Liberal Party presidential candidate.
  - Edgardo Valenzuela - Foreign Minister, has been spoken of as possible Nationalist-Reformist compromise candidate for president.
5. Principal issues: Chiefly the personalities of the three leading contenders and strong personal animosities among their supporters. Three major parties all professedly anti-Communist, but Liberal Party believed Communist-infiltrated. The small Communist-front Honduran Democratic Revolutionary Party, active among north coast laborers, has thrown its support to Liberal Party. Nationalist Party, strongly anti-Communist but many Hondurans fear return to Carias dictatorship if this party wins. Moderate Reformist Party has implicit backing of popular President Galvez.

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6. Party strengths: 1953 municipal elections
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| Nationalist Party | 38 percent |
| Reformist Party   | 32 "       |
| Liberal Party     | 30 "       |
7. Principal factors influencing outcome: None of the three parties is expected to receive the majority required to elect a president. Efforts to form coalition between Reformists and Nationalists or Reformists and Liberals have thus far failed. An inconclusive presidential election would constitutionally be decided by the newly elected congress, but this might provoke violence. President Galvez will attempt to assure free election, but if violence appears inevitable, he may postpone elections and extend his term. However, he is not anxious to stay in power by unconstitutional means.
8. Outcome of other relevant recent elections: November 1953 municipal elections were sparsely attended. Results showed significant loss of Nationalist strength to Reformists and Liberals in spite of electoral frauds favoring the Nationalists.
9. Informed opinions: Most observers expect violence in some degree and some fear a coup by military backers of either Carias or Williams. Army, traditionally a decisive factor, is split. Reformists hold balance of power and would be assured of victory in a coalition with either the Nationalists or the Liberals. However, strong animosities have thus far prevented a coalition.
10. Probable significance for US security interests: Continued political instability would favor currently strong Communist efforts to seize control of labor. Liberal victory might mean Communist infiltration of government. Nationalist leader Carias is friend of the US but lacks popular support and is the symbol of rightist dictatorship. Williams, a moderate and strong nationalist, is pro-United States.

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Acting Assistant Director  
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